

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, fifty years ago, more than 3 million servicemen and servicewomen left their families to serve bravely, a world away from everything they knew and everyone they loved; and,

WHEREAS, From Ia Drang to Khe Sanh, from Hue to Saigon and countless villages in between, they pushed through jungles and rice paddies, heat and monsoon, fighting heroically to protect the ideals we hold dear as Americans; and,

WHEREAS, while they came from different backgrounds, colors and creeds, they worked to complete a daunting mission. A mission that left more than 58,000 dead and returning thousands home bearing shrapnel and scars, burdened by the wounds of post-traumatic stress, of Agent Orange and memories that would never fade; and,

WHEREAS, though long and controversial in nature, this war in many ways defined a generation of Americans. In the half century since the beginning of the conflict, our nation has grappled with the sensitive effects of this struggle which accompanies all wars. Yet we remain thankful to those who fought in this conflict and the legacy of service that they built; and

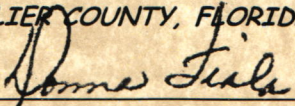
WHEREAS, the freedoms and liberties we are blessed to enjoy are a direct result of the courage, devotion and sacrifice of the members of our Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam War will continue through Nov. 11, 2025. Throughout this commemoration, let us strive to live up to their example by showing our Vietnam veterans, their families and all of the men and women who have served our country, the fullest respect and support of a grateful county. Collier County appreciates the sacrifices that our Vietnam veterans made in defending our freedom, and believe it is important that we acknowledge them for their courage and sacrifice.

NOW THEREFORE, be it proclaimed that the Collier County Board of County Commissioners hereby honors our Vietnam veterans on the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and on behalf of a grateful community thanks them for their selfless service and sacrifice.

DONE AND ORDERED THIS 24th Day of May 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA



DONNA FIALA, CHAIRMAN

